

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7516

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13424

E.O. 11762: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, JA, CB

1. FONOFF UN POL AFFAIRS DIV HEAD OWADA CALLED IN EMBOFF URGENTLY AFTERNOON OCT 16 TO EXPLAIN GOJ DECISION CONCERNING HANDLING OF KHMER QUESTION IN UN GENERAL COMITE. OWADA HAD LEARNED FROM JUN BY TELEPHONE THAT US HAD MADE STRONG REQUEST THAT JAPAN SPEAK IN GC AGAINST INSCRIPTION OF KHMER ITEM. JUN WAS INCLINED TO AGREE TO US REQUEST PROVIDED FONOFF HAD NO OBJECTION. HOWEVER, UN BUREAU, AFTER DISCUSSING MATTER WITH ASIAN BUREAU, DECIDED THAT JAPAN SHOULD NOT SPEAK IN GC FOR REASONS SET FORTH BELOW. OWADA SAID HE WILL BE SENDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT TO JUN BUT WANTED US TO HAVE FULL EXPLANATION FROM HIM IN CASE JUN'S EXPLANATION TO USUN IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR.

2. OWADA SAID FONOFF VIEW WAS THAT DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO SPEAK IN GC SHOULD BE BASED ON ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT JAPAN'S INTERVENTION WOULD BE HELPFUL. FONOFF ANALYSIS IS THAT ANSWER WOULD BE AFFIRMATIVE ONLY UNDER FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

(A) ALL ASEAN RPT ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD SPEAK IN GC, OR (B) IF ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES DECLINED TO SPEAK BUT VOTING SITUATION SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE TO SUGGEST POSSIBILITY THAT JAPAN'S INTERVENTION MIGHT TIP SCALES. OWADA POINTED OUT THAT NEITHER OF THESE

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SITUATIONS OBTAIN.

3. FONOFF UNDERSTANDS THAT ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES PLUS NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA ARE OPPOSED TO BOTH INSCRIPTION AND SUBSTANCE OF OPPOSITION RESOLUTION ON KHMER, AND THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES HAVE CIRCULATED NOTE TO THIS EFFECT (DRAFTED BY THAILAND) TO ALL UN MEMBERS. HOWEVER, WHEN IT COMES TO TACTICS OF TAKING FLOOR IN GC, FONOFF VIEW IS THAT ONLY INTERVENTIONBY INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND/OR SINGAPORE WOULD HAVE ANY CHANCE OF INFLUENCING SITUATION (PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND, IN FONOFF VIEW, WOULD BE DISCOUNTED AS TOO PRO-US). APPARENTLY NO ONE OF THESE THREE IS PREPARED TO SPEAK IN GC.

4. OWADA EMPHASIZED THAT JAPAN IS NOT OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO SPEAKING IN GC, BUT FONOFF BELIEVES SUCH INTERVENTION WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE AND COULD EVEN BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THEREFORE, JAPAN WISHES TO HOLD FIRE AND WORK ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE IN PLENARY RATHER THAN PROCEDURAL QUESTION IN GC. FONOFF UNDERSTANDS THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE TAKING SIMILAR POSITION, AND THAT WHEREAS THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF GETTING UNANIMOUS ASEAN INTERVENTION IN GC, THEY ARE PREPARED TO SPEAK UP AS GROUP IN PLENARY.

5. OWADA CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT FONOFF WAS MAKING TACTICAL DECISION WHICH DID NOT IN ANY WAY ALTER JAPANESE OPPOSITION TO PRO-SIHANOUK RESOLUTION AND GOJ RESOLVE TO WORK AGAINST THAT RESOLUTION IN PLENARY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO13424
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS INGERSOLL
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731028/aaaaaujk.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <18-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER QUESTION IN UN
TAGS: PFOR, JA, CB, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005